

August 10, 2012

# Weekly Views

Plainfield Correctional Facility's Wheelchair Repair shop, working in partnership with Wheels of the World, completed restoration of 223 wheelchairs and loaded them in a cargo container bound for Lima, Peru. Wheels of the World technicians will meet the container upon its arrival in Peru and personally fit each chair to a person in need. The facility has shipped over 400 chairs this year.

A group of representatives from the Indiana State Library visited the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) at the request of Timothy Owens, Senior Program Officer for State Library Programs from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington, D.C. The IMLS funds the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants provided for the IWP library. Mr. Owens specifically requested a tour of the library and a meeting with Officer Frank Bryan to discuss how grant funds are used. Mr. Owens stated he was quite impressed with the level of service provided and the enthusiasm that surrounds the library. He also found it inspiring to see and hear about the tremendous impact the library makes and how the LSTA funds support these efforts. Congratulations to Officer Bryan and his library clerks for a job well done and receiving recognition on a national level for IWP.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility Venture Scout Unit camped out in the facility recreation area. The student's first activity during the evening was a six hour relay to finish their Walk Across America. The students also made small sail boats to compete against one another in the Rain Gutter Regatta and broke up into teams to see which team could assemble their tent the quickest. The students also completed work on the Pet Merit Badge and enjoyed pizza and other treats throughout the evening.

The PEN Products moving crew assisted the Indiana Department of Environmental Management set up their booth at the Indiana State Fair and also installed new playground equipment on the grounds of the Indiana School for the Deaf. The PEN Products moving crew supervised by Bob Durham utilizes offenders from the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) to provide services to other state agencies. The offenders are learning marketable skills to prepare for employment after their release.

Thousands of visitors stopped by the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility display for the third annual National Night Out (NNO) and Kid's Fair at Humphreys Park in Linton, IN. Wabash Emergency Squad, Fire Department and Custody staff passed out ALERT informational flyers and assorted goodies, joining 54 other booths taking part in NNO. Superintendent Dick Brown termed the event "a huge success and lots of fun!"

Staff with Hoosier S.T.A.R.T and Great West Retirement Services visited the Westville Correctional Facility. The crew flew in from Denver, CO to film a portion of a video to showcase Hoosier S.T.A.R.T and the benefits of contributing to the retirement plan. The film crew was quite excited to learn about the facility and how staff deal with the multiple levels housed at Westville. People from northwest Indiana who are interested in seeing the completed video can sign up for the Hoosier S.T.A.R.T event being held at the Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso, IN on October 30, 2012. Other events are being held in Indianapolis, Evansville, Henryville and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Registration details should be available soon online at [www.in.gov/auditor/hoosierstart](http://www.in.gov/auditor/hoosierstart).

Thirty visitors arrived at the Putnamville Correctional Facility to spend a "Day with Dad." Graduates from the Inside Out Dads program and their children reconnected while playing games and petting the new arrivals from the Prison Greyhound program. The event was coordinated by Casework Manager James Bennett.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional delivered its fifth donation to the Noble County Food Bank. Despite the lack of rain and extreme heat, Chain O' Lakes garden is still producing an abundant amount of vegetables. The latest delivery included potatoes, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, onions and garlic.

The Continuing Education Council at the Indiana State Prison presented a check for \$500 to Ms. Lela Ewers, Director of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errant's (CURE). CURE has been involved in the creation of programs to compensate victims and continues to work for the rights of the victims of the crime.

PEN Products Program Director Lisa D. Williams along with three interns from IUPUI and Anderson University who are working with the IDOC were provided a tour of the Pendleton Correctional Facility by Community Services Director Wayne Scaife. In addition to the tour, the interns had the opportunity to meet with custody, unit team, and release personnel to discuss the various functions and operations of a maximum security facility.

Staff at the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) gathered to listen to Superintendent Levenhagen deliver his "State of the Facility" address at WCC's quarterly roll call. Numerous awards were presented for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service along with special recognitions and the top honor at the facility: the Ambassador of the Quarter; which was presented to Recreation Director Karl Gast for his unwavering service to special events, community projects and the facility's Employee Action Committee.

IDOC Deputy Director of Religious and Volunteer Services Isaac Randolph and Program Coordinator Jerry Anderson visited the IREF to meet with residents and Chaplain Blackburn to discuss possible mentoring services. Director Randolph answered the residents' questions and concerns about how they might build better relationships, find job opportunities, establish community support and housing before and after release from incarceration.